

HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
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Minnesota Golf Course
Superintendents' Association

2001 MGCSA Board of Directors

Officers

President.....E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS
Heritage Links CC
952/440-6494 Fax: 952/440-4655
epeckholm@msn.com

Vice President.....Rick Fredericksen, CGCS
Woodhill CC
952/473-5811 Fax: 952/473-0113
r_fredericksen@msn.com

Secretary.....Mike Brower
Hillcrest CC
651/777-5186 Fax: 651/777-7463
mjbrow@qwest.net

Treasurer.....Rob Panuska
Waseca Lakeside Club
507/837-5996 Fax: 507/835-3472
rpanuska@prairie.lakes.com

Ex- Officio.....Tom Fischer, CGCS
Edinburgh USA
763/315-8575 Fax: 763/315-8585

Directors

James Bade.....Somerset CC
651/457-1161 Fax: 651/455-2282
jbade@aol.com

Michael Brual.....Faribault G & CC
507/334-8101 Fax: 507/334-9653
mikebrual@faribaultgolf.com

Kerry Glader.....Plaissted Companies, Inc.
763/441-1100 Fax: 763/441-7782
kbgld@aol.com

Barry Hines.....Mill Run Golf Course
3905 715/834-5942 Fax: 715/830-2123

Jeff Johnson.....The Minikahda Club
612/926-4167 Fax: 612/926-0602
taj52@aol.com

Ted Schirck.....Hydrologic
763/542-1188 Fax: 763/546-7515
tschirck@hydrologic.net

Steve Shumansky.....Perham Lakeside CC
218/346-6071 Fax: 218/346-6079
plcc@eot.com

Dan Swenson.....River Falls Golf Club
715/425-2838 Fax: 715/425-0160
rfgc@presenter.com

Richard Traver Jr., CGCS.....Monticello CC
763/295-3323 Fax: 763/271-0124
supytrav@soncom.com

Editor

Richard Traver, Jr., CGCS
supytrav@soncom.com



Editorial and Business Office:

Scott Turtinen, Executive Director
Minnesota Golf Course
Superintendents' Association
240 Minnetonka Avenue South, P.O. Box 617
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391-1617
Tel: 952/473-0557 Fax: 952/473-0576
Toll Free: 1-800-642-7227
E-mail: scott@mgcsa.org

From Your President's Desk



E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS

From Early Rains to Near Drought, Wonder What the Fall Will Bring?

The heart of the season is upon us and it looks like we will not be having an easy workload. From the early rains to the near drought I can only wonder what the fall will bring. Perhaps we will have really nice weather mixed with nighttime rains. Wouldn't that be a switch.

I met recently with Dr. Powell and Dr. Horgan for lunch. They seem to complement each other quite well. Together they have a vision for the research and extension turfgrass program that is truly exciting. The Drive for the 'U' program has filled some of the immediate needs of the program but we are far from finished. In the near future you will be receiving information about where they would like the program to go as well as how you can help. Please support the program as best you can.

As some of you may have noted, The GCSAA has instituted an internet sales site. This site is presumably in the interest of the members, to allow them to get better pricing on goods. If you are so inclined to use these sites please remember a few things. Our local vendors are the ones that for years have foot the bill for many of the things our association has been able to do. They are the ones that buy the booth spaces at the trade shows, they are the ones paying for the advertisements that fund the newsletter, the roster and the web page. They are the ones that pay for the hole sponsors, event sponsorships and hospitality rooms. In short, the vendors are the people that drive the funding of our association. Without them, we would all be getting a lot less or paying a lot more. So support your local vendors, and maybe buy them lunch for a change.

The Board of Directors has been busy planning for the future. The budget has been submitted and approved and although we have been diligent in the last two years our expenses continue to outpace our incomes. For that reason you will all be seeing a slight increase in your dues for the fiscal year beginning in July 2002. Unlike the increase we had a few years ago this increase will affect all classes of membership except those that are exempt from dues. Buy the way, when I say slight I do mean slight, probably less than 5%. It has been the feeling of the Board for some time that these small corrections every other year would be far better than waiting until we are strapped and need a large increase. We will continue to look for ways to cut our overhead and do things in a more efficient manner.

* * *

Keep smiling and doing the best you can. "If you don't know where you are going, you will surely never get there." - anon.

--Respectfully,
E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS
epeckholm@msn.com

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